

SYSTEM AND METHOD FOR
ELECTROSURGICAL TISSUE CONTRACTION

5

ABSTRACT OF THE DISCLOSURE

Systems and methods are provided for performing
electrosurgical interventions, such as selectively contracting soft collagen
tissue and other body structures, while limiting thermal damage or
molecular dissociation of such tissue and limiting the thermal damage to
10 tissue adjacent to and underlying the treatment site. The systems and
methods of the present invention are particularly useful for surgical
procedures in electrically conducting environments, such as arthroscopic
procedures in the joints, e.g., shoulder, knee, hip, hand, foot, elbow or
the like. The present invention is also useful in relatively dry
15 environments, such as treating and shaping the cornea, and dermatological
procedures involving surface tissue contraction of tissue underlying the
surface of the skin for tissue rejuvenation, wrinkle removal and the like.